

MEMORANDUM FOR FILE

DATE: March 13, 2013

SUBJECT: Meeting with Gogebic Taconite

1. On March 13, 2013, OP-R (Sande) and (Graser via phone) met with Tim Myers of Gogebic Taconite (GTAC). GTAC presented several maps that showed the conceptual footprint of a mine that included two pits, a tailings and waste rock disposal area, a topsoil disposal area, a processing facility, office building area, access roads, railroads and stormwater ponds. The mining operation described included two phases for an overall project life of 35 years. The project site would occupy nearly 4,000 acres of land in Ashland and Iron Counties, Wisconsin.
2. GTAC stated that they intend to complete exploration drilling this spring to gather additional data on the composition of the ore body as needed to further develop the plan. The exploration drilling would be conducted with a trailer mounted drill rig to drill 2-inch diameter cores within existing logging roads.
3. GTAC stated they also propose to do conduct bulk sampling this summer. The bulk sampling would include the excavation of material from an area approximately 100 feet long by 8 feet wide at each location. GTAC indicated that they anticipate accessing the sampling locations from existing roads and the abandoned railroad grade. OP-R inquired whether he anticipated the need to improve or expand the existing roads and/or the railroad grade to support the equipment. OP-R stated that wetlands should be identified and delineated in any areas where work is proposed, such as mechanized land clearing, excavation, grading, and road raising or widening. OP-R stated that a Department of the army permit may be required for such activities.
4. GTAC expressed interest in meeting jointly with the WDNR to develop a scoping plan needed to identify each agencies information needs. GTAC indicated they intend to complete wetland delineation work this summer. OP-R stressed that it would be important to ensure the delineators map all water resources on the site in addition to wetlands. OP-R also stated that there are unmapped streams that would need to be identified and mapped. There was some discussion on the development of a MOU and the EIS process as well as compensatory mitigation requirements.
5. OP-R suggested that Gogebic provide information to our agency regarding the methods for modeling and monitoring proposed to quantify impacts in advance of completing work to ensure that the results would satisfy OP-R informational requirements. OP-R indicated that some studies may require several years of data.

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